

In the Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A method for inducing flowering of strawberry plants wherein said strawberry plants are grown in a controlled-temperature environment, wherein said method comprises growing said strawberry plants for a first growing period of at least six weeks under photoperiodic conditions and at a daytime temperature which reaches at least 30° C, and wherein said daytime temperature is abruptly reduced during a second growing period under photoperiodic conditions, after said first growing period, to about 25° C.

Claim 19 (Previously amended): The method, according to claim 18, wherein said method further comprises reducing the photoperiod to which said plants are exposed during said second growing period compared to said first growing period.

Claim 20 (Previously added): The method according to claim 19, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is reduced by at least fifty percent.

Claim 21 (Previously added): The method according to claim 19, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is reduced to a photoperiod of about six to ten hours.

Claim 22 (Previously added): The method according to claim 18, wherein said first growing period comprises about 6 weeks to about 10 weeks.

Claim 23 (Previously added): The method according to claim 18, wherein said method further comprises growing said strawberry plants at a nighttime temperature that reaches at least 30° C during said first growing period.

Claim 24 (Previously added): The method according to claim 23, wherein said nighttime temperature reaches at least 30° C during said first growing period and said second growing period.

Claim 25 (Previously added): The method according to claim 23, wherein said nighttime temperature is reduced during said second growing period compared to said first growing period.

Claim 26 (New): The method according to claim 19, wherein the photoperiod is reduced from about 12 hours in the first growing period to 6 to 10 hours in the second growing period.